

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-13 (canceled).

14. (currently amended) Compression molding method using continuously moving tools for manufacturing plastic parts having a neck provided with an orifice, comprising the steps of:

bringing the blank to an appropriate temperature, and then placing the blank in an air gap between at least two moving parts of a compression molding tool and bringing the at least two moving parts towards each other to compress the blank,

the plastic material of the blank being caused thereby to flow so as to fill cavities in the moving parts until the moving parts stop moving relative to each other, the cavities once brought towards each other defining a volume of the part with a neck,

constructing the compression tool to produce a molded neck having a top wall that comprises a thinned zone having a contour that delimits a shape of the orifice,

the compression tool being constructed such that the thinned zone is bounded by a notch having section in a diametric plane passing through the axis of the neck which is oriented along a direction approximately parallel to the axis of the neck, and such that the top wall also comprises a breakoff zone in which a mechanical force can be applied to the top wall with sufficient intensity to break the top wall at the notch, the application zone being distinct from the thinned zone,

the compression tool further being constructed such that the top wall also includes two zones that can resist the

mechanical force, one of the zones being designed to transmit the mechanical force and the other of the zones acting as a support, and

opening the molding tool by relative displacement of the moving parts, and applying the mechanical force to the application zone sufficient to cause a break to occur at the notch and detach at a wall of the top wall, said wall being torn off after molding and removed by applying an axial thrust, least part of the top wall, thereby opening up the orifice.

15. (currently amended) Method according to claim 14, wherein the breakoff zone breaks during cooling after molding, under a force applied as soon as the temperature of the plastic material becomes close to a vitreous transition temperature in the breakoff zone.

16. (previously presented) Process according to claim 14, wherein the breakoff zone comprises a V-shape notch, the V having an angle of between 30 and 90°, and having a bisecting line forming an angle of between 0 and 45° with the axis of the neck.

17. (previously presented) Method according to claim 14, wherein the top wall comprises a transverse wall and a stick having an end at which a force can be is applied laterally to cause breakage of the breakoff zone.

Claim 18 (canceled).

19. (previously presented) Method according to claim 14, wherein the top wall comprises a transverse wall acting as a shutter and a protuberance with a T-shaped profile, forming a ring groove on an outer surface thereof, in which prongs of a fork or a rail may be engaged, with relative displacement causing tearing off and then removal of the shutter.

Claim 20 (canceled).

21. (previously presented) Method according to claim 14,

wherein the parts of the compression molding tool are also moved by a continuous movement orthogonal to the direction along which the parts move towards each other.

22. (previously presented) Method according to claim 14, wherein the compression molding tool comprises a first moving part and a second moving part, the first moving part, at least in a part of the cavity used for shaping the said breakoff zone, being made of a material that is less rigid than a material used for the second moving part.

23. (previously presented) Method according to claim 22, wherein the first moving part is made of plastic material, at least in the cavity part used for shaping the breakoff zone, and the second moving part is metallic.

24. (previously presented) Method according to claim 23, wherein the first moving part comprises a cavity provided with a stopper to close off the orifice, the stopper being positioned such that an inner surface thereof acts partially as a molding cavity for shaping the neck, at least at the breakoff zone.

25. (previously presented) Process according to claim 22, wherein the breakoff zone is shaped by a moving part portion forming a toroidal edge.

26. (previously presented) Process according to claim 24, wherein the breakoff zone is shaped using a part of the stopper which forms a toroidal edge.